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# IRONBOUND VOICES

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# Brazilian Farmworker Leader Visits Ironbound

Jose Brito Ribeiro, a leader of the Movement of the Landless Rural Workers of Brazil (MST), spoke to groups at St. James Church and at the Presbyterian Community of Christ on McWhorter St. during June.

Mr. Ribeiro told of the history and work of the MST, which was founded in 1985. In Brazil, 20% of the people own nearly 90% of the land. Hundreds of millions of acres of rich soil lie unused, because it belongs to rich families who do not farm it. Meanwhile, more than a million children in Brazil are malnourished, and the minimum wage is about \$4 a day. There are 4.8 million people without land.

The MST is an organization which helps families build settlements on unused land. The Brazilian Constitution was changed in 1985 to say that land should belong to the one who works it. The MST is trying to enforce this law. However, often the military police, and judges take the side of the large landholders. There have been cases where settlers, even young children, have been killed by military police. Over the past 15 years, the MST has organized 130,000 families to occupy unused land and form agricultural cooperatives.

In February of this year, the MST organized a 70-day march of tens of thousands of people from across the country. They were supported by union leaders, church members, students and small farmers. They marched to the presidential palace in Brasilia on April 17th demanding land for those without it, jobs for the jobless, and justice for those who had been killed by police violence.

Mr. Ribeiro, a 30 year old farmworker from the state of Espirito Santo, studied to become a technician in management of agricultural cooperatives. He has been a member of the MST for 10 years.



*Shown in the photograph, from left to right: Father Angelo Amaral, St. James Church, Cibele Kuss from Ironbound Lutheran Ministry, and Mr. Brito Ribeiro, from MST.*

Among those who attended, or lent support to, Mr. Ribeiro's talk in Ironbound were Father Angelo Amaral, St. James Church, American Friends Service Committee, Pastor Renato Bernardes, Comunidade Crista Presbeteriana, Rev. Lin Powell of Wolff Memorial Presbyterian and Trinity Reformed Church in Ironbound, and Cibele Kuss from the Ironbound Lutheran Ministry.

*Information for this article is based on a New York Times Magazine of April 20, 1997, and information provided by Father Amaral of St. James Church.*

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## ***Free Public Technology Center At Newark Library***

The Newark Public Library, 5 Washington St., has opened its Public Technology Center, and is offering free workshops in a variety of skills, such as: basic word processing, computer literacy, Internet research, etc. The workshops are offered in both daytime and evening hours. Call 733-3603 for information.

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# *Riverbank Park: More Broken Promises?*

It seems as though promises to the community about Riverbank Park are already being broken. The City Council passed a resolution stating that the proposed "replacement park" must be built before the ECIA began construction of the stadiums.

But documents which the Essex County Improvement Authority gave to the state of New Jersey Green Acres Program state that the "replacement park" will only be completed if, and when, the Army Corps of Engineers gets funded to complete its project along the river. Groundbreaking for that project will not begin until the spring of 1998, if the money is available. The "replacement park" is to be located on land that is privately owned. The land has to be purchased, and cleaned up. The ECIA's documents show that less than 3 acres of land will be initially developed, compared to the 10.7 acres of land now in Riverbank Park.

The "replacement park" will be harder to get to (across a 4 lane highway with no pedestrian bridge, although this was a promise made). The "replacement park" will offer the community much less. In the 3 acres that will be initially developed, besides the parking lot, there will only be a basketball court, and a baseball field and soccer field which overlap, meaning you can't play both at the same time.

There is no guarantee that the rest of the "replacement park" would ever be completed, since it depends on the Army Corps of Engineers project along the banks of the Passaic River getting funded and completed. If it does, there are still many things which Riverbank Park has, that the "replacement park" will not have: there will be no benches under shady trees for senior citizens, no track, no place to sit and watch the baseball games, no lights on the tennis courts, no bathrooms or drinking fountains, no playground for the children.



An article in the Luso American said that demolition of Riverbank Park would begin by the end of July. SPARK members fear that the park will be demolished "illegally," as has happened with other disputed sites in the city of Newark, for example, the baseball stadium in Weequahic Park. After it was knocked down, some local politicians said it was a "mistake." But the stadium could not be replaced.

"I am afraid that Riverbank Park will be demolished, in spite of the Green Acres regulations. I am afraid that they will just come in and knock it down one day, and say it was an accident later," said Rev. Paul Hagedorn, a SPARK member.

Meanwhile, some very important decisions will be made this month which may decide the future of Riverbank Park.

The Green Acres Program of the state of New Jersey, and the National Park Service, must decide if the proposal to build stadiums in Riverbank Park is a "diversion", that is, not consistent with the original uses of the park.

Members of SPARK, environmental groups from around the state, and even national groups have written letters to Green Acres Commissioner  
**cont. on p. 4**



## Riverbank Park

cont. from p. 3

James Hall, and Cynthia Wilkerson of the National Park Service, commenting on documents that the Essex County Improvement Authority sent to Green Acres about its proposal.

"Riverbank Park has been and is still to this day, heavily used by the Ironbound's immigrant population. Seniors, children, mothers with infants, little league, handicapped and disabled use Riverbank Park because of its free availability, easy access, and a location that is safe and easily walked to. It is an area that provides all Ironbound residents with important greenery and shade in a neighborhood that is densely populated and heavily industrialized...It has been part of the Ironbound for nearly 80 years and was designed by the firm of Frederick Law Olmsted and Sons," said SPARK's letter.

***"All of Newark would lose much more than it would gain by this action, and what it would lose is irreplaceable."***

This park would be replaced by a sportsplex which will "provide recreational opportunities on a fee and permit basis only. Twenty luxury boxes with a planned expansion to 42 will be on a fee basis...The Ironbound community is not even mentioned in the Sportsplex Marketing Plan. What is now an Ironbound park would become a city and county facility no longer accessible to Ironbound residents."

The National Association for Olmsted Parks letter states: "A city such as Newark, fortunate enough to have an Olmsted design heritage, should cherish and enhance this resource rather than consider it as mere open land for construction... Clearly there are alternative sites available nearby where the baseball and soccer stadiums with their selective and privatized uses...can be accommodated."



The American Society of Landscape Architects wrote, "All of Newark would lose much more than it would gain by this action, and what it would lose is irreplaceable."

The National Trust for Historic Preservation wrote to Governor Whitman "It is counter-productive for Newark to lose a wonderful public facility, which is also an irreplaceable work of art and landscape architecture, in the name of civic improvement. By preserving Riverbank Park and building the proposed sports center in a currently vacant parcel of land, Newark would reap a double benefit for the effort."

For more information, contact SPARK 465-0603.



# Ironbound Hosts "March For Our Lives"

On Friday, June 28, over one hundred people, young and old, marched up Ferry St. to Trinity Reformed Church, at the corner of Hawkins St.

The march was called to protest the fact that there are not enough jobs at high enough wages for people forced off of welfare by the new "welfare reforms." The marchers wanted to call attention to the UN Declaration of Human Rights which guarantees every man, woman and child, the right to life and liberty, including the right to food, housing, health care, education, and the right to work for fair pay.

"There were young and old people, parents and grandparents, people of all ages and all races. There were all kinds of wonderful people on this march," said Mrs. Harris of Trinity Reformed Church. "They were hungry and tired. We gave them lunch, and when they were rested they went on their way. to Jersey City. There were even children in strollers on the march."

Assistance and support was given by the Family Services Program of the Ironbound Community Corporation, which organized the lunch.

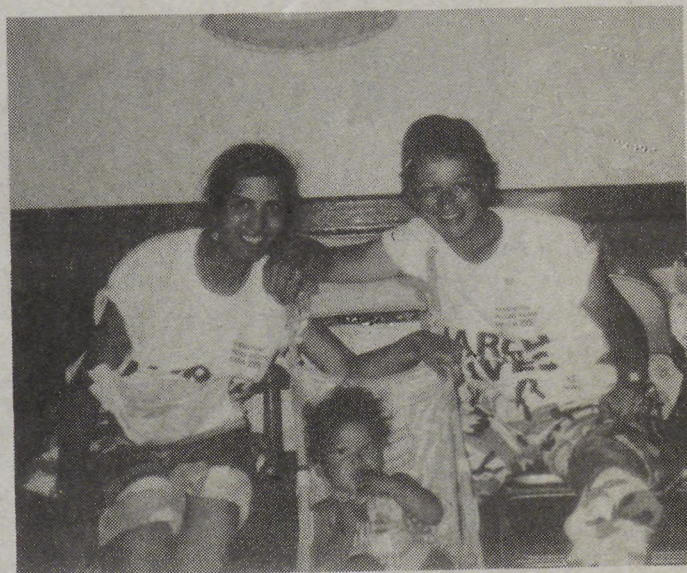
Led by the Kensington Welfare Rights Union of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, the families were marching from the Liberty Bell in Philadelphia to the United Nations, in New York City. Along the way, they passed through many New Jersey towns and cities, and on July 1 they rallied outside the United Nations building.

One of the biggest problems in New Jersey is the lack of Affordable Housing. The New Jersey Council on Affordable Housing estimated in 1993 that the statewide need for affordable housing is 86,000 units, but current funding levels are creating only 3000 units a year," said Arnold Cohen from the Affordable Housing Network of New Jersey. "350,000 families pay more than 50% of their income for housing. It is estimated that there are at

least 25,000 homeless persons in the state." The Affordable Housing Network is working for the passage of Housing & Jobs Bond Act which would provide money for building affordable housing.

In New Jersey, support for the march was coordinated by a statewide organization of low income people called STEPS (Solutions To End Poverty Soon). STEPS supports the Work support and Family Stability Act (S-1658, which has been introduced in the state legislature by Senator Robert Singer, and would meet the long term supportive needs of all working families, as well as those who cannot find work, or can't work. The bill would set a Standard of Need to account for housing, food, health care, child care, clothing and other essentials, and fill the gap between low wages and this standard.

"It is only fair that someone who is working or looking for work should have a roof over their heads, and food on their table," said Juan Haro, from STEPS. "For those that can't work, they shouldn't be homeless or hungry either."



*Some of the participants in the march relax at Trinity Reformed Church in Ironbound.*



## *Ten Years Later...*

During the spring, the City of Newark finally broke ground for the swimming pool which they have promised Ironbound residents for over 10 years. The fight began when the City demolished the Wilson Ave. Bathhouse. The land where the new pool was supposed to be built was contaminated with toxic chemicals. Ironbound residents never let up their pressure to force the City to keep its promise. How long the construction will take, and who will get to use the new pool, are questions which still must be addressed.



*The Hawkins St. School Choir sang several selections to add to the festivities*



*Students from St. Benedict's Academy attended the ground breaking.*



## *...City Breaks Ground For Ironbound Pool*



*Children and staff from the Ironbound Childrens' Center, and June Kruszewski, from the Ironbound Community Corporation Board.*



*The cheerleading squad from Lafayette St. School performed a cheer in honor of the occasion.*



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# Graduation Day Thoughts

*Rev. Lin Powell, from Trinity Reformed and Wolff Presbyterian Church, gave the commencement address this June for Hawkins St. School. Rev. Powell is also a Board member for the Ironbound Community Corporation. Here are some of her thoughts for the graduates:*

Remember...You choose your destiny. You already know right from wrong, and some values **don't** change. Many things of this culture try to convince you that the 'right car', the 'right' deodorant, the 'right' clothes, the 'right' hair color, the 'right' figure - will guarantee you your hearts' desire. You **know** that stuff is a **lie**. Don't buy into it. Don't let the advertising agencies define your values for you. The bumper sticker that proclaims. "The one who dies with the most toys wins" simply wants to remove from you any money you might have.

How do you determine your values? Back in the 'olden days" it was said **Do unto others as you would have them do unto you**. This is called the Golden Rule. It's still a solid rule by which to live your life.

Remember...The world doesn't owe you a living. The world offers **opportunities**. Prepare yourself for opportunities by study, by asking questions...lots of questions, by being willing to risk failure while trying to learn something new. It's OK to fail at something. If you are genuinely trying to master a subject, master a skill. Don't be afraid to risk failure. Not trying is the real failure.

Remember...when you accomplished something, did something really well...remember how you felt, whether anyone else knew about it or not.

Remember...True friends are people you can trust. Being a true friend means others can trust you.

We are born into this life to develop into the very best human beings we can become. We are put on this earth to learn how to live together...to help

each other learn what it means to be truly human...caring and loving, and becoming a community where all are respected. Because we have this potential within us, we also have **hope**. Hope for a better world rests on each of us being the best we can be and working **with others** to form a global community.

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## Seniors Rally To Save Their Programs

Ironbound senior citizens picked up their phones and their pens, and hopped on the bus to go to Essex County Board of Freeholder meetings during June. They were concerned because Essex County had notified the Ironbound Community Corporation that it would transfer ICC's Meals on Wheels and Senior Ride contracts to agencies located in other parts of Newark.

Ironbound Community Corporation has provided these services for senior citizens in the neighborhood for twenty years. In 1997, ICC will provide 25,000 Meals on Wheels; 12,500 hours of home care service; and 2000 rides to doctors. Many of the workers in these programs are residents of Ironbound.

Because of the support from the community, ICC was able to settle the matter with the Freeholders and the Essex County Executive, and keep its contracts. Thanks to the action of many Ironbound residents, these important services for senior citizens will continue to be provided by their own neighborhood agency, the Ironbound Community Corporation.

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## *Ironbound Residents Say "We Told You So"*

### **And Governor Tries To Bail Out Incinerators**

Essex County is trying to get out of its garbage incineration contract with American Ref-Fuel and the Port Authority.

15 years ago, Ironbound residents and members of the Ironbound Committee Against Toxic Waste, and Essex County environmental groups, fought hard against the garbage incinerator. The issue of the terrible contract was one of the main things people pointed out.

"All the things the Freeholder Board is now saying, we said then," said Joe Nardone, ICATW member. "Nobody listened to us, because we were just people with common sense, not companies with lots of dollars to throw around."

ICATW criticized the size of the incinerator as too big. They criticized the put and pay contract, which requires that Essex County pay fees if it falls short of the amount of garbage it is supposed to generate. ICATW said American Ref-Fuel would bring in garbage from other counties, and even other states. It does. And it charges sometimes more than 50% less to dispose of that garbage than the garbage from Essex County. (Star Ledger July 30, 1997).

Essex County sold more than \$65 million worth of bonds for the incinerator project, and Eric Wisler, counsel for the Essex County Utilities Authority, said the debt must be repaid whether or not the county breaks its contract with the Port Authority. Today the \$72.75 fee per ton which Essex County residents pay includes \$6 toward debt service.

The garbage incinerator industry is facing a crisis because New Jersey's waste flow regulations have been ruled unconstitutional by a federal judge. That will mean trash haulers can take their garbage out of state to landfills that are much cheaper than the incinerators.

Meanwhile, on June 24, 1997, Governor Whitman introduced \$20 million into the proposed state budget to help pay the debt service on waste facilities. People from Essex and Warren County

have blasted the move.

"With a sweep of the pen, Governor Whitman slips \$20 million into the state budget to subsidize a dying industry...", said Anna Maria Caldara, from Warren County. That appropriation could go a long way in establishing a re-use, recycle and composting program."

"This is a bribe to keep the counties with incinerators quiet during the election," said Bob Carson, from Concerned Citizens of Union County.

"New Jersey needs a phase out, not an unconditional bailout of the incinerator industry," said David Pringle, from the N.J. Environmental Federation. "These companies receive guaranteed private profits with no risk at taxpayers expense."

"The incinerator industry was granted a sweetheart deal from the start," said Madelyn Hoffman from the grass Roots Environmental Organization. "Instead of just throwing more money its way, we must take action to make the industry pay for its mistakes."

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***You Can Begin Essex County  
College This Fall at:***  
**Ironbound Community Center**  
**432 Lafayette St.**  
**Newark, 07105**

College level courses offered evenings & weekends in: Art, Accounting, Economics, English as a Second Language, Math, Psychology, Sociology

You may be eligible for financial aid.  
On site registration: Sept. 9 to 11th.  
Fall semester begins Sept. 16, 1997.



# Continua A Batalha Sobre O Futuro Do Riverbank Park

Como já se suspeitava, as promessas feitas à comunidade sobre o futuro do Riverbank Park foram partidas. O conselho municipal passou uma resolução propondo a desativação do park antes de darem início a construção do estádio pela "Essex County Improvement Authority" (ECIA).

No entanto, documentos do departamento de Melhorias do Condado do Essex e do programa Estadual Acres Verdes, este projeto somente será concretizado quando houver fundos para o Departamento de Engenharia do Exército, responsáveis pelas obras de melhorias do park em toda sua região marginal. Nada está previsto para antes da primavera de 1998, se tiverem verbas suficientes. O park será localizado em área de propriedade privada a qual terá que ser comprada e limpa. A documentação do ECIA diz que somente 3 acres serão aproveitados, no lugar dos previstos 10.7 localizados no Riverbank Park.

"O park substituto" será difícil de ser concretizado, visto que enfrentará o desafio da estrada de 4 pistas e não possuirá ponte para os pedestres. Este park oferecera pouco benefício para a comunidade. De início, os 3 acres além do estacionamento, haverá somente uma quadra de basketball, e um campo de baseball e futebol, o qual não poderá ser usado simultaneamente.

Não existe garantias que o restante o "park substituto" será concluído na sua inteireza. Caso a verba seja liberada ainda teremos muitas coisas a levar em consideração. Por exemplo, no novo parque não haverá bancos debaixo das árvores para as pessoas idosas, não haverá pistas de corrida e tampouco haverá assentos para as pessoas assistirem aos jogos de beisebol. Não haverá luzes nas quadras de tennis, não haverá banheiros ou qualquer fonte de água potável. Não haverá área de lazer para as crianças.

Em artigo publicado no Luso Americano foi mencionado que as obras seriam iniciadas no final de Julho, 1997. Membros do SPARK (Save Riverbank Park Coalition) estão temerosos que as obras se iniciam de maneira ilegal, como tem acontecido em outros sítios da cidade, por exemplo, o estádio de beisebol do Weequahic Park. Depois

de demolição, alguns políticos disseram que tinha sido um erro muito grande e que o parque não poderia ser substituído. "Tenho medo que o Riverbank Park venha a ter a mesma sorte, apesar dos regulamentos que o protege. Tenho um pressentimento que isto irá acontecer e de maneira ilegal," disse o Rev. Paul Hagedorn, membro do SPARK.

Enquanto isso, muitas decisões sérias serão tomadas este mês, decisões estas que decidirá o futuro de nosso parque.

O programa "Áreas Verdes" do estado de Nova Jersey e o Serviço Nacional de Parques, terão que decidirem se todo este projeto não passa de um golpe político e também terão que certificarem se as autoridades locais irão cumprir à risca com os planos originais.

Membros do SPARK, grupos de proteção do meio ambiente de todo o estado bem como outras organizações de nível nacional tem mantido constante contato com o Comissário James Hall, e Cynthia Wilkerson do Serviço Nacional de Parques, investigando as propostas submetidas pelo Condado de Essex.

"O Park Riverbank tem sido e ainda é hoje, assiduamente usado pelos habitantes do Ironbound. Anciãos, crianças, mães com os seus filhos, pequenas ligas, aleijados e outros com deficiência física, tem usado este parque com bastante frequência. Um dos motivos é sua disponibilidade e por ser grátis. Tem sido usado já por quase 80 anos e foi desenhado pela firma Ferderick Law Olmsted e Filhos," disse um carta do SPARK.

"Esta parque será substituído por outro que cobrará taxa para usá-lo bem como uma licença conferida pela cidade. Todas essas mudanças só irão prejudicar a população local e beneficiará pessoas que não vivem na área."

A Associação Nacional para Parques Olmsted disse: "Uma cidade como Newark tem muita sorte e o privilégio de possuir um parque desenhado pelo Olmsted. Este parque deveria ser preservado como um tesouro municipal. Tem que haver outras opções além da de destruir algo tão

cont. p. 9



## *O Chefe Brasileiro dos Fazendeiros Visita Ironbound*

Jose Brito Ribeiro, um chefe do Movimento dos Trabalhadores Sem Terra do Brasil (MST) falou a grupos à Igreja St. James e à Igreja Presbiteriana da Comunidade Crista de McWhorter St. durante Junho.

O Senhor Ribeiro disse sobre a história e trabalho do MST., o qual foi fundado em 1985 no Brasil, 20% das pessoas possuem quase 90% da terra. Centenas de milhões de hectares de terra fértil existem não usadas porque pertencem a famílias ricas as quais não as cultivam. Entretanto, mais que um milhão de crianças em Brasil têm subnutrição e o salário mínimo é proximamente \$4 dólares por dia. Há 4.8 milhões de pessoas sem terra.

O MST é uma organização a qual ajuda famílias para construir instalações na terra não usada. A constituição Brasileira foi trocado em 1985 par dezer que terra deve pertencer à pessoa que a trabalha. O MST está a tentar forçar esta lei. Porém às muitas vezes a polícia militar e os juizes tomam a parte do proprietário grande. Houveram casos onde colonos, ainda crianças pequenas, foram mortas pela polícia militar. No decursodes 15 anos pasados, o MST tem organizado 130,000 famílias para ocupar terra não usada e para formar cooperativas agrários,

Em Febrero deste ano, o MST organizou uma marcha de 70 dias constituinte de dezensas de milhares de pessoas de toda a país. Forma sustentado dos chefes das uniões, membros das igrejas, estudantes, e fazendeiros pequeno. Eles marcharam ao palácio do presidente em Brasília no 17 de Abril a exigir terra para aqueles sem ela, empregos para os desempregados, e justiça para aqueles quem se tinham matado da violência da polícia.

O Senhor Ribeiro, um fazendeiro de 30 anos, do estado de Espírito Santo, estudou para tomar-se un técnico no administração de cooperativas agrárias. Tem sido um membro de MST há dez anos.

Entre aqueles que assistiram, ou deram apoio ao discurso do Senhor Ribeiro em Ironbound foram: Padre Angelo Amaral da Igreja St. James,

American Friends Service Committee, Pastor Renato Berardes da Comunidade Crista Presbiteriana, Pastora Lin Powell da Igreja Presbiteriana Wolff Memorial e Estagiário Cibebe Kuss do Ministério Luterano em Ironbound.

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### *Riverbank Park cont.*

precioso e historico."

A Associação Americanas de Aruqitetos Urbanos escreveu, "Newark perdera mais doque ganhara caso este projeto seja levada àvante, e a perda será irreparável."

A Associação Nacional de Peservação Historica escreveu para o governadora Whitman. "É contra-produtivo para Newark perder algo tão maravilhoso como as instalações deste parque historico. Este parque é uma obra arquiteonica singular. Por preservar este parque e construir o proposto stadium em outra localidade que esteja desocupada, so trara beneficios para a cidade."

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## **Pensa Continuar Sua Educação?**

**Pense no Essex County College  
"O Colegio do Seu Comunidad"  
no Ironbound Community Center  
432 Lafayette St.**

Clases de Outono Começam en:  
Setembro 16, 1997

Mariculas: Setembro 9 - 11  
6:30 - 9:30 PM

Para informação chame para o numero,  
877-3439 ou 877-1848



## "Marcha Para As Nossas Vidas"

No passado dia 28 de Junho, mais de 100 pessoas, jovens e menos jovens, desfilaram pela Ferry St. até à igreja da Trinity Reformed, na esquina da Hawkins St.

A marcha foi organizada para protestar o facto de não haver trabalhos suficientes que paguem o suficiente para retirar pessoas do welfare sobre a nova lei "reformas do welfare." Os marchantes quiseram assim chamar a atenção de UN Declaração dos Direitos Humanos que garantem a todo o homem, mulher e criança, o direito à vida e liberdade, incluindo o direito a comida, casa saúde, educação, e o direito de trabalhar por um ordenado justo.

"Havia pessoas jovens e idosos, pais e avós, pessoas de todas as idades e raças. Havia pessoas maravilhosas de todas as raças," disse a Sra. Harris da Trinity Reformed Church. "Eles estavam cansados e com fome. Nós demos-lhe almoço, e depois de terem descansado foram ao seu destino para Jersey City. Até haviam crianças em carrinhos nesta marcha."

Apoio e assistência foram oferecidos pelo Programa de Serviços de Famílias do Ironbound Community Corporation, que organizaram o almoço.

Liderados pela Kensington Welfare Rights Union de Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, as famílias marcharam desde o Liberty Bell (Sino da Liberdade), em Philadelphia, até às Nações Unidas, em Nova York. No percurso, passaram por várias cidades de New Jersey, e no dia 1 de Julho desfilaram em frente do edifício das Nações Unidas.

Um dos maiores problemas em New Jersey é a falta de casas económicas. "O Conselho de Casas Económicas de New Jersey avaliou em 1993 que a necessidade de casas económicas em todo o estado era de 86,000 casas, mas os níveis de fundos actuais estão criando somente 3.000 casas por ano," disse Arnold Cohen de Affordable Housing Network de New Jersey. "350,000 famílias pagam



mais de 50% do seu ordenado para a casa. Há uma estimativa de que existem pelo menos 25.000 pessoas desalojadas em todo o estado." A Affordable Housing Network está a trabalhar para a passagem de Housing & Jobs Bond Act o qual poderá conseguir dinheiro para construir casas económicas.

Em New Jersey, o apoio dado à marcha foi coordenada por uma organização a nível do estado de pessoas de baixos recursos chamada STEPS (Solutions To End Poverty Soon) (Soluções Para Acabar com a Pobreza). STEPS apoia o apoio ao trabalho e o Acto de Estabilidade Familiar (S-1658), o qual tem sido introduzido na legislação pelo Senador Robert Singer, e poderá conseguir ajuda a longo termo para as necessidades de todas as famílias trabalhadoras, assim como aquelas que não conseguem trabalho ou ainda as que não podem trabalhar. O projecto de lei estipulará uma medida de necessidades com diferentes contas, para habitação, comida, cuidado de saúde, cuidado de crianças, roupas e outras essenciais, e encherá a lacuna entre os ordenados baixos e esta medida.

"É somente justo que quem trabalhe ou procure trabalho tenha um teto para se abrigar, e comida na mesa," declarou Juan Haro, de STEPS. "Para os que não podem trabalhar, tão pouco deveriam ser desalojados ou ter fome."



# La Batalla Contiuva Sobre El Futuro Del Parque Riverbank

Aparenta como si las promesas echas a la comunidad sobre el parque Riverbank ya estuviesen rotas. El consejal de la ciudad dijo que el parque que se usara de re-emplaza tenia que ser construido **antes** que el Essex County Improvement Authority (ECIA) comenzara la construcción de los estadium.

Pero los documentos que el ECIA le dio al estado de New Jersey Green Acres Program dicen que el parque re-emplazante sera completado solamente cuando el proyecto de el Army Corps de Ingenieiros reciban dinero para completar nuestro proyecto acerca del rio Passaic - en la primavera del 1998, **si el dinero esta ascecible**. El parque sera construido en terreno que es privado. La propiedad tiene que ser comprada y limpiada. El ECIA indica que solamente 3 acres seran usados comparados con 10.7 acres de terreno que tiene Riverbank.

El parque re-emplazante sera mas dificil ser utilizado (hay que cruzar Raymond Blvd., una autopista de 4 vias sin ningun puente - a pesar de que eso es parte de la promesa). El parque le ofrecera le ofrecera mucho menos a la comunidad. En los 3 acres que seran construido inicialmente, solamente habra espacio para una cancha de baloncesto, un parque de pelota o de soccer (solamente se podra jugar un juego a la vez), y el estacionamiento para los carros.

No hay garantia que el parque sera engrandecido puesto que esto depende a los Ingenieros del Army Corps y sus proyecto en el Rio Passaic, y si el dinero es aprovado. Y si fuese echo el parque nuevo tendra muchas cosas nuevas pero no como el Parque Riverbank puesto que no habra banco debajo de los arboles, donde correr, donde sentarse a ver los juegos de pelota, no tendra luces en la cancha de tenis, no habia baños, ni fuentes de agua, y tampoco no tendra un sitio para los niños jugar.

Un articulo publicado en el Luso Americano decia que la demolición del parque Riverbank

comenzara a fin de Julio. SPARK (Save Riverbank Park Coalition) piensa que esta demolición puede ser ilegal como ha pasado en otros lugares de Newark, por ejemplo el cuadrilatero en Weequahic Park. Despues que esta fue demolisado, unos politicos dijeron que fue un "error", pero el estadium no pudeo ser re-construido.

"Tengo miedo que el Parque Riverbank sea destruido sin concentimiento de las regulaciones de Green Acres. Tengo miedo que solo vengan a tumbarlo un dia y despues digan que fue solo un accidente," dijo el Rve. Paul Hagedorn, un meimbro de SPARK.

Sin embargo, muchas decisiones importantes ocurriran este mes las cuales pueden decir el futuro de Riverbank.

El Programa Green Acres del estado de New Jersey, y el Servicio Nacional de Parques tienen que decidir si la propuesta de hacer los estadiums no es un "divercción" y si esta consistentes con los planes originales y los usos del parque.

Los miembros de SPARK, y grupos que protegen el ambiente han escrito varias cartas al Commisionador James Hall de Green Acres, y Cynthia Wilkerson del Servicio Nacinal del Parque sobre la propuesta.

"El parque Riverbank a sido y es hasta este dia usado por toda la población de inmigrantes del Ironbound. Envejecientes, niños, madres, las pequenos ligas, incapacitados y desabilitado usan a Riverbank, porque es gratuito y asceseible. Es un lugar que le ofrece a la comunidad un lugar fresco y seguro en una comunidad tan populada y industriacilada...Ha sido parte del Ironbound por casi 80 años y fue deseñado por la firma de Frederick Law Olmsted," dijo la carta de SPARK.

"Este parque sera re-eemplazado por un 'sportsplex' el cual ofrece oportunidades recreativas por un costo y permiso solamente. La comunidad

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## *Ironbound Patrocina la "Marcha Por Nuestras Vidas"*

El viernes, 28 de Junio, mas de cien personas, jovenes y viejos, marcharan por Ferry St. a la Iglesia Trinity Reformed en la esquina de la calle Hawkins.

La marcha fue llamada para protestar por la razon que no hay suficiente trabajos con salarios suficiente para forzar a personas que sobrevivan sin welfare por las nuevas "leyes de reforma de welfare." Los marchadores querian traer atención a la Delcaración de Derechos Humanos de las Naciones Unidas que garantizan que cada hombre, mujer y niño tenga el derecho a vida y libertad incluyendo el derecho a comida, vivienda, cuido de salud, educación y el derecho a trabajo con un salario justo.

"Habia gente joven y vieja, padres y abuelos, personas de todas edades y razas. Habia mucha gente maravillosa en esta marcha," dijo la Sra. Harris de la Iglesia Trinity Reformed. "Tenian hambre y estaban cansados. Les dimos comida y despues de descansar siguieron marchando a Jersey City. Hasta habia bebes en la marcha."

Asistencia y apoyo fue dado por el Programa de Servicios de Familias de la Corporación de la Comunidad de Ironbound, que organizó la comida.

Dirigido por el Kensington Welfare Rights Union de Philadelphia, las familias marcharon de la campaña de Libertad en Philadelphia a las Naciones Unidas en Nueva York. En ruta, pasaron por muchas ciudades en New Jersey e el 1 de Julio demostraron afuera del edificio de las Naciones Unidas.

Un de los problemas mas grandes en New Jersey es la falta de vivienda de costo bajo. "El Concilio de New Jersey acerca de Vivienda de Bajos Ingresos dice que en 1993 la necesidad estatal para vivienda de bajo costo era para 86,000 apartamentos, pero el nivel de fondos gubernamentales solamente paga para crear 3000 apartamentos por año," dice Arnold Cohen del



Affordable Housing Network de New Jersey. "350,000 familias pagan mas de 50% de sus ingresos para vivienda. Existen como 25,000 personas desamparadas en el estado." El grupo estatal Affordable Housing Network esta trabajando para pasar la legislación nombrada Acto Para Vivienda Y Trabajos que provera dinera para construir vivienda de bajo costo.

En New Jersey, apoyo para la marcha fue cordinado por una organización estatal de personas de bajos ingresos llamado STEPS (Soluciones Para Terminar la Pobreza Pronto). STEPS apoya la propuesta legislativa llamada el acto de Apoyo al Trabajo y la Estabilidad de Trabajo (S-1658), que ha sido introducido a la legislatura estatal por el Senator Singer y daria el apoyo necesario a termino largo a afamilias trabajadoras como a las personas que no puedan encontrar trabajo ó que no puedan trabajar.

"Es justo que alguien que esta trabajando ó buscando trabajo tenga vivienda y comida en sus mesas," dice Juan Haro de STEPS. "Para las personas que no pueden trabajar no deberian de estar desamparados o vivir con hambre."

Para mas información llame 344-7208.



## ***Dirigente del Movimiento Campesino Brasileño Visitó***

Josè Brito Ribeiro, dirigente del Movimiento de los Campesinos Sin Tierra (MST) del Brasil habló ante reuniones en las iglesias St. James y Comunidad Cristiana Presbiteriana el pasado mes de junio. Ribeiro, oriundo del estado de Espiritu Santo, tiene 30 años y es técnico agronomo, trabajando en cooperativas. Lleva 10 años militando en el MST.

El Sr. Ribeiro dió un resumen de la historia y accionar del MST, desde su origen en 1985. En Brasil, 90% del territorio está en manos de un 20% de la población. Millones de hectareas pertenecen a grandes terratenientes que se niegan a cultivarlos. Mientras tanto, más de un millón de niños brasileños sufren de desnutrición y 4.8 millones de campesinos no poseen ni una parcela de tierra. El salario mínimo del jornalero equivale al \$US4 diarios.

El MST ayuda a las familias a poblar las tierras en desuso. Tras un cambio en 1985, la constitución de Brasil otorga la tierra a los que la cultiven. El MST procura que se respete esta ley. Sin embargo, policías, militares y jueces defienden los intereses de los grandes terratenientes. Se han dado casos de masacres de los pobladores, hasta niños han muerto. Durante quince años 130.000 familias, del MST se han tomado tierras baldías, formando cooperativas agrícolas.

En febrero de este año, el MST organizó una marcha de decenas de miles de brasileños de todo el país. La marcha duró 70 días. Con el apoyo de sindicalistas, iglesias, estudiantes y pequeños terratenientes, llegaron al palacio presidencial en Brasilia el 17 de abril, pidiendo tierra para los que no la tienen, trabajo para los desempleados y justicia para las víctimas de asesinatos policíacos.

La gira del Sr. Ribeiro en Newark recibió el apoyo del Rev. Angelo Amaral, de la Iglesia St. James, el American Friends Service Committee, los pastores Renato Bernades, Comunidad Cristiana Presbiteriana, y Rev. Lin Powell, Wolff Memorial Presbyterian Church, y la Sra. Cibeles Kuss, de la iglesia luterana.

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## **Riverbank Park**

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del Ironbound ni siquiera ha sido mencionada en los planes de Sportsplex. Porque es que ahora el parque del Ironbound, será una propiedad de la ciudad y el condado, pero no accesible a su comunidad."

La Asociación por Olmsted Parks en su carta dicen, "Una ciudad como Newark que tienen un parque diseñado por Olmstead deberían cuidarlo y protegerlo no dejarlo, para que lo usen en construcción. Seguro que por ahí tienen más terreno en el cual pueden hacer un estadio."

La Sociedad Americana de Landscape Architects, escribió, "Todo lo que Newark perdería sería más ganado pero si pierde el daño sería irreparable."

La National Trust of Historic Preservation le escribió a la Gobernadora Whitman, "Es contra productivo para Newark de perder una facilidad pública que también es irreparable puesto que su arquitectura y arte son una reliquia. Preservando a Riverbank y construyendo en otro lugar un estadio. Newark ganará el doble por su esfuerzo."

Para más información, llame SPARK, 465-0603.



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